

Lightning forecast to return followed by cooler temperatures and less fire risk

Lightning may return to the region today and each afternoon through Wednesday. Areas most likely to be impacted remain unknown due to unstable conditions in the upper atmosphere, however forecasters show some potential for activity west of the Cascades. Though efficiency will remain high, Predictive Services indicate the upcoming storm will be as intense as those recently experienced. Red flag warnings are in place for much of Washington with the Seattle area likely to reach a six on the Haines Index tomorrow. Heavy smoke across the state has helped to moderate fire behavior and is likely to remain in the area through most of the week. In Oregon, the risk of fire is rated as high for areas east of the Cascades. Changing weather late in the week should be a boon for crews with lower temperatures and an increase in relative humidity expected. Notable amounts of precipitation remain unlikely.

Helpful Links:

PNW Execs blog: pnwexecs.blogspot.com (this page provide execs with easily accessed tools for looking ahead 3 days to 30 days. All are links to NWCC pages but made easy to find on this one page)

NWCC Blog: <http://nwccinfo.blogspot.com/>

Southern Oregon JIC blogspot: <http://swojic.blogspot.com/>

Washington Smoke blog: <http://wasmoke.blogspot.com/>

7-Day Fire Potential Outlook: <https://gacc.nifc.gov/nwcc/content/products/fwxf/guidance/DL.pdf>

NWCC Morning Brief: <https://gacc.nifc.gov/nwcc/content/products/intelligence/MORNINGBRIEF.pdf>

<https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/photographs/6093/>

USA Fire Story Map: <https://storymaps.esri.com/stories/usa-wildfires/>

Fire related articles:

Drone threatens fire operations in southwestern Oregon

<https://www.oregonlive.com/expo/news/erry-2018/08/6b8fa147951565/major-wildfires-in-oregon-blaz.html>

Crescent Mountain Fire threatens 300 homes

<https://www.krem.com/article/news/local/wildfire/crescent-mountain-fire-threatens-300-structures/293-585413249>

Two new grass fires burn 8,000 acres

<https://www.ktvz.com/news/crews-tackle-lightning-sparked-fires-watch-for-more/783221688>

It’s simple: Global warming worsens wildfires

<https://chicago.suntimes.com/environment/global-warming-worsens-wildfires/>

Wildfires make August campfires and endangered species

<http://www.spokesman.com/stories/2018/aug/19/wildfires-make-august-camp-fires-an-endangered-spe/>

Wildfire in Hood River prompts hotel evacuation

<https://www.ktvz.com/news/wildfire-prompts-hood-river-hotel-evacuation/783482913>

New/Emerging Fires:

Oregon State –

Stubblefield Fire: OSFM Blue Team assumed command of the Stubblefield Fire at 11:00 pm Aug. 17. The fire is burning 7 miles northwest of Condon. A Central Oregon type 3 team joined them in unified command on Aug. 18. The fire has burnt an estimated 17,000 acres. The teams are also managing other fires in Gilliam County, to include the 250-acre 1018 Fire burning near Fossil, the Buckhorn Fire, and the 161 McDonald fire that was reported at 400 acres burning six miles east of Lone Rock. Level 3 and 2 evacuations remain in place with several residences and structures threatened by the Stubblefield and 161 McDonald Fires. The 161 McDonald Fire is now being managed under the Kinzua Complex. Community meetings are planned for Aug. 19 at 6:00 p.m. in Condon and Aug. 20 at 7:00 p.m. in Lonerock.

Westcliff: Located in Hood River and started by a structure fire. The railroad is shut down, evacuations have taken place, and there have been impacts to highways and other structures. As of the afternoon of Aug. 19, the fire was at 7 acres.

Mile Post 6 Fire: This fire burned 1,500 acres on the Crooked River National Grasslands six miles south of Madras, but crews were able to get a line constructed around the fire. All lines are holding.

Sorefoot Fire: Firefighters responded to the Sorefoot Fire burning 6 miles northwest of Clarno on the Prineville District of the BLM. It is 800 acres in size and 90 percent contained.

Silent Butte: 20 acres in logging slash. Engines and equipment on site with an order for two hand crews.

Grizzly Road Fire: Firefighters had lined the 360 acre fire burning 11 southeast of Madras.

Eli Creek: This lightning fire has burned 5,500 acres 12 miles southwest of Pilot Rock.

Tenino Fire: The Tenino fire is burning on the Warm Springs Reservation about 5 miles southwest of Warm Springs. It was reported at 9,600 acres and has a Type 3 IMT assigned.

Devils Lake Fire: This new start is burning 10 acres on the Northwest District of BLM. Limited information is available.

29 Corridor Fire: The fire is located on the Umpqua National Forest near South Umpqua Falls. It is estimated at five acres.

Terwilliger Fire: *This fire is located on the* Willamette National Forest near the Terwilliger Hot Springs. The fire is growing quickly and posing challenges to IA. Movement across crowns was taking place upon IA arrival. A Type 3 IMT may be ordered.

Near miss - An ODF detection flight with a FS employee on board departed John Day Airport in a Cesena 182. They heard a noise in the engine and returned to John Day where they had a normal landing. While taxiing back, the engine quit and a tow was required.

1039 (Jennie’s Peak)Fire: A Type 3 IMT in-briefed this morning to manage this 4,600 acre fire with 0 percent containment located 13 miles south of Fossil. Active fire behavior has been reported and the fuel type is grass and brush. A Type 2 IMT is being ordered by COFMS, which will work in unified command with the IMT assigned to the Stubblefield Fire.

Kinzua Complex: A Type 3 IMT is managing multiple fires within a ten mile radius of Fossil, totaling 550 acres and burning in a mix of timber and brush. The complex includes the previously reported 161 McDonald, 57 Kinzua, 158 Ricks Creek, 165 Rancheria, and 172 Oxhead Fires.

Washington State –

Elm Fire - Burning on the Spokane District of BLM, this fire is 90 percent contained at 2,000 acres.

Meninick Pass - This lightning-caused fire is burning on the Yakima Agency, and is reportedly 5,537 acres and 90 percent contained.

Kelly Mountain is burning 44 acres and 25 percent contained, burning on the Colville National Forest. A Local Type 3 team is on the fire. No direct option is available, so crews will use roads in area, likely to be up to 800 acres. The fire is burning about a mile south of the Canadian border. More information can be found here: <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/6132/>

Kettle River/1904 Fire: started on Aug. 11 on private land, but escaped containment lines and burned onto the Colville NF. It is 52 acres and 10 percent contained. <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/6132/>

LARGE INCIDENTS - WASHINGTON

Cougar Creek/Bannock Lake/White Pine/Lost Fires: CA Type 1 Team 5 (Young) is managing all four fires. Cougar Creek fire is reported at 35,809 acres and Bannock Lake Fire is at 444 acres. Containment is at 35 percent. Evacuation levels remain the same. Notable growth has been seen on the west flank with the fire reaching containment lines. Spotting is also occurring in this area. A DRT1 flight detected a few spots, which crews will work to address. High winds are forecast in the area for Aug. 19, which will make holding the line a challenge. Surge resources will be placed on the western flank to provide added support. The area of Grandma Creek on the northeastern edge continues to be monitored with some activity detected. Three accidents were reported yesterday. One involved a low-speed impact during a turn between a dozer under transport and a civilian vehicle. The second involved a broken finger. The third accident involved a contract water tender sliding off a soft shoulder and rolling over multiple times down a steep embankment. Technical extraction of the driver was required. The driver was taken to a hospital via life flight and is in stable condition today. A filming crew from PBS NOVA will be on site today. More information is at <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/6053/>

Crescent Mountain/McLeod/Doe Fires: (SA IMT 1, IC Wilkins) assumed command today of the 24,983-acre Crescent Mountain fire, and the 11,663-acre [McLeod Fire](#). Containment for Crescent Mountain Fire is at 34 percent. Level 3 evacuation levels remain in effect for 40 homes in the area of Twisp. Crews continue to hold containment north of the Twisp River in the Abernathy drainage. Focus is being placed on prepping for tactical firing operations along existing roads and lines. A red IWI occurred last night for a previously unidentified bee sting that resulted in a severe allergic reaction. The victim was transported to the hospital and later released for light duty. A community meeting is planned for Tuesday evening in Twisp. More information is at: <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/6093/>